

THE Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

BRIEFS

Messengers cards set for distribution

Messenger cards for the 180th Mississippi Baptist Convention Oct. 27-28 at First Church, Jackson, will be mailed directly to churches during the second week of October. Each church will receive the number of cards for which the church is eligible according to the guidelines of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Constitution: "Each church in friendly cooperation with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and having contributed to world missions through the Cooperative Program during the preceding convention year shall be entitled to two messengers for the first one hundred members of its membership or fraction thereof. One additional messenger from each church shall be allowed for each additional one hundred members, or major fraction thereof, but no church shall be entitled to more than ten messengers." Membership information is based on the 2014 Annual Church Profile. For more information, contact MBCB executive administrator at (601) 292-3201 or toll-free at (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-mail: mtll@mbcb.org.

Preschool Care for Convention

Preschool care will be available for children by pre-registration, ages birth through five, at First Church, Jackson, during the Pastors' Conference and the Mississippi Baptist Convention, from noon on October 26 through October 28. To pre-register, contact Michelle Sansing, childcare coordinator, at (601) 949-1997. All children must be pre-registered by Monday, October 19. The preschool departments are located on the street level off North State Street. Following are the procedures: (1) Pre-register, giving name and age of each child, the parent, and the church. (2) Pick up a security card for each child on arrival. (3) Be sure all belongings are labeled. (4) For infants, leave a time schedule for feeding. (5) Leave the children no earlier than 15 minutes before the beginning of a session and pick them up no later than 15 minutes after the close of the session. Children may remain in the preschool area during the Convention lunch break on Oct. 27, if parents provide a sack lunch.

Miss. Christians honor Mother Emanuel Church

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Christians from across Mississippi packed the Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson, on Aug. 25 to honor the witness of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., where a racially-motivated shooting spree on June 17 resulted in the deaths of nine members of a Wednesday night prayer meeting Bible study group, including the pastor.

The event also called for Christian unity in Mississippi and America, as racial tensions rose this past summer to levels not seen in decades.

"After the tragic church shootings in Charleston, the Lord impressed on my heart a desire for First Baptist Jackson to showcase the posi-



First Church, Jackson.

"Because of our long-time relationship with the Mississippi Mass Choir, I reached out to [choir executive director] Jerry Mannery about the possibility of conducting a joint night of worship featuring our combined choirs. As we began

see TOGETHER on p. 6

PAIR OF PRESIDENTS — Ronnie Floyd (left), president of the Southern Baptist Convention and senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, rallies the standing-room-only crowd assembled Aug. 25 in the Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson, for a worship time themed, Stronger Together: A Night of Unity. Joining Floyd in calling for Christian unity in the face of racial tension across America was Jerry Young, president of the National Baptist Convention USA, and pastor of New Hope Church in Jackson. The event honored the witness of members of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., the scene earlier this summer of a racially-motivated massacre. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Statement by the Christian Action Commission

Recently, an article was posted on the Christian Action Commission (CAC) website by a former employee of the CAC. This article was posted without gaining proper approval and was unauthorized for release by the CAC. The article presented information and made implications that caused questions to be raised. There were many items discussed in the article that are well deserving of conversation but the Board of Trustees of the Christian Action Commission understands that

there were statements in the article that were not verified, and as such, created confusion.

We want to thank the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for their tireless work to promote the gospel on the behalf of the Mississippi Baptist Convention as they assist churches navigate these choppy waters. We have the great blessing of being a part of a strong convention of churches cooperating together for the cause of making great the name of Christ. We must

continue working together to maintain the gift that God has given us as a great convention of churches. God has given us much, and to whom much is given, much is required. May Mississippi Baptists continue to do much with all that we have been given as we make disciples of all peoples.

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees
of the Christian Action
Commission

Inside this issue

Directions

Sunday School
lessons

Editorial

Bibliocipher

How to Become
a Christian

Revivals &
Homecoming

Just for the Re-

Classifieds

EXHIBIT 37
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORY
AND CULTURE LIBRARY
3720 N. ZEEB RD.
DETROIT, MI 48201
SEP 30 2015



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Happy Anniversary

When Wayne Pinkerton was the business administrator for First Church, Biloxi, he made a point to never go inside the ubiquitous casinos that dotted the Mississippi Gulf Coast in every direction.

However, he could tell you the exact day each one reopened after Hurricane Katrina.

"When the casinos were all closed down after Katrina, no one came to the church asking for money or any other benevolence because they had lost everything gambling. Not one person," said Pinkerton, now executive pastor of First Church, Laurel.

"When one of the casinos would reopen, the church's telephone would start ringing — I mean, the very next morning. People were pleading for help. That would happen every time another casino reopened," he said.

How did Pinkerton know those folks had been to the casinos? "Some of them were very obvious in their clothing when I would ask for their driver's license to verify identification, would have to thumb through ten or more 'frequent-player' casino club cards to find it. If that wasn't a clue, all I had to do was look at the T-shirts and hats with casino logos they were wearing."

Personal and family wreckage are merely two parts of the dark underbelly of Mississippi's gambling explosion that supporters don't want to talk about. Members of the state's gambling/political complex get mighty anxious when such negative subjects are brought up, because that's not the bright, progressive picture of the industry that they promote without ceasing.

There is another Katrina anniversary that shouldn't be forgotten. On Sept. 27, 2005 — mere weeks after Katrina wiped out the gambling industry on the Coast — then-Governor Haley Barbour broke his promise to the people of Mississippi not to allow any gambling expansions and called a special session of the Mississippi Legislature to legalize land-based gambling. The gamblers were threatening to pull up stakes and leave Mississippi if they were not allowed to move off the beaches to dry land, he warned.

We were told that even more uncountable riches would come our way if only the gamblers got what they demanded in the special session. (Sound familiar?) We were told of the unimaginable tax collections that would increase with expanded gambling. (Sound familiar?) We were told that it would be worth the small, extra social cost involved. (Sound familiar?).

We were told scary stories of destitution and unemployment unless the casinos came onshore. We were told the "Mississippi Miracle" of gambling prosperity would vanish without onshore casinos.

We were told all that and so much more, but not mentioned in the rush by the Barbour and legislators to accommodate the gamblers in the 2005 special session were the tremendous, inarguable human tragedies wrought by the presence of gambling in our state. We weren't told of the shivering children locked in cars in casino parking lots while parents gambled away their paychecks. We weren't told of the embezzlements, thefts, robberies, and frauds perpetrated to gain gambling money when all other financial resources had been lost at the gambling tables.

We weren't told of the addictions and obsessions that always — always follow legalized gambling. We weren't told of the moms, dads, bankers, teachers, band directors, police officers, and foundation directors who would fall prey to gambling and who now occupy prison cells. We weren't told of the young children who only see their fathers or mothers during jail visitation hours. We weren't told of the suicides by forlorn gambling addicts who believed they had no reason left to live.

Yet the state's gambling/political complex, which includes large swaths of state government, a majority of the members of the Legislature, some members of the secular news media and business community, and even a few Baptists, pressed forward during the special session and compounded the original mistake of allowing legalized gambling in the first place by giving the gamblers everything they demanded during the special session.

Pinkerton's experience on the Gulf Coast, which is shared by just about every Mississippi Baptist pastor and church staffer who has ever served in a gambling area, left him deeply affected.

"We're raising a generation of people — young people — who see gambling simply as a way of life, just part of the landscape now in Mississippi. They don't remember Mississippi without legalized gambling. Those people are going to have a whole different view of gambling in the days to come," he said.

As we near the tenth anniversary of the great 2005 special session giveaway by our governor and legislators, that's some pretty serious food for thought.

Religious liberty in danger



Guest opinion

with Paul Chitwood

Rather, Bunning chose to throw Davis in jail.

Should Jack Conway have been jailed? Of course not. He should have been ordered to do his duty as an elected official and, if he refused, a due process should have unfolded to allow citizens of the commonwealth to decide if he should continue to hold office. Should Davis have been jailed? Of course not.

Yet, in the midst of what is quickly becoming one of the most heated cultural debates since slavery, Judge Bunning created a martyr and, at the same time, wrought a great injustice upon a public servant and a wife and mother of two.

With countless alternatives to be explored and exhausted, Bunning used

see CHITWOOD on p. 7



THE Baptist Record

Editor

William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor

Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design

Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising

Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager

Amy Massey
amassey@mbcb.org

Baptist Record

Advisory Committee:
Camille Anding, Etta
T. R. Darsey, Winona

Whit Lewis, New Albany
Derrick Wilson, Kosciusko
Carolyn Reeves, Oxford
Garland Boyd, Brookhaven

Send news,
communication,
and address changes
to: The Editor, Baptist
Record, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS
39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@
mbcb.org



BAPTISTS

VOLUME 139 • NUMBER 38 • ISSN-0008-5778

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

SBC women leaders say Pope wrong on abortion

NASHVILLE (BP) — Pope Francis has extended to priests worldwide the authority to offer absolution for the sin of abortion during the Catholic Church's "Holy Year of Mercy," which begins Dec. 8 and runs through Nov. 20 of next year.

Most priests in the United States already have such authority, but in other nations they must seek permission from bishops, a formal process that has led to frustration among those seeking absolution. Under Roman Catholic canon law, abortion brings automatic excommunication unless the person who has had an abortion or performed an abortion confesses and receives absolution.

However, Southern Baptist women's ministry leaders Kathy Ferguson Litton, Dorothy Patterson, and Rhonda Kelley, in comments to Baptist Press lamented the misguided nature of the pope's decree that forgiveness must be sought from anyone but Christ.

The New York Times noted that Pope John Paul II enabled priests to offer the same absolution during the last Holy Year, in 2000. "Yet it shows [Pope Francis'] broader push to make Catholicism more merciful and welcoming," The Times noted.

Vatican officials said it's possible the pope will allow the abortion absolution practice to continue indefinitely. "I have met so many women who bear in their heart the scar of this agonizing and painful decision," the pope said of abortion in a statement issued by the Vatican.

This is one of two social initiatives by the pope in recent days with the other being a fast-tracking of marriage annulments, streamlining the process to make it more accessible to those who otherwise might have drifted from the church after a divorce rather than seek an annulment.

Litton, a North American Mission Board national consultant for ministry to pastor's wives, told BP, "As much as I admire the Catholic Church's vigorous pro-life teaching, this move by Pope Francis is disconnected from a biblical Gospel. ... The Bible never teaches us to look to man or any officer of the church to dispense grace. We are reconciled to God by grace through Jesus Christ when He became sin for us."



LITTON



PATTERSON



KELLEY

Many women of her Baby Boomer generation, Litton said, have had an abortion, given the fact that abortion rates were highest in the 1970s through the early '80s.

Patterson, professor of theology in women's studies at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth and wife of the seminary's president, Paige Patterson, said any action that puts a man or a woman above God is distressing and unacceptable.

"God is aware of the pain and difficulty for a woman and her family in light of an unplanned pregnancy, but God protects and cherishes the life of the unborn child as well as extending His mercies and love to the hurting mother," said Patterson.

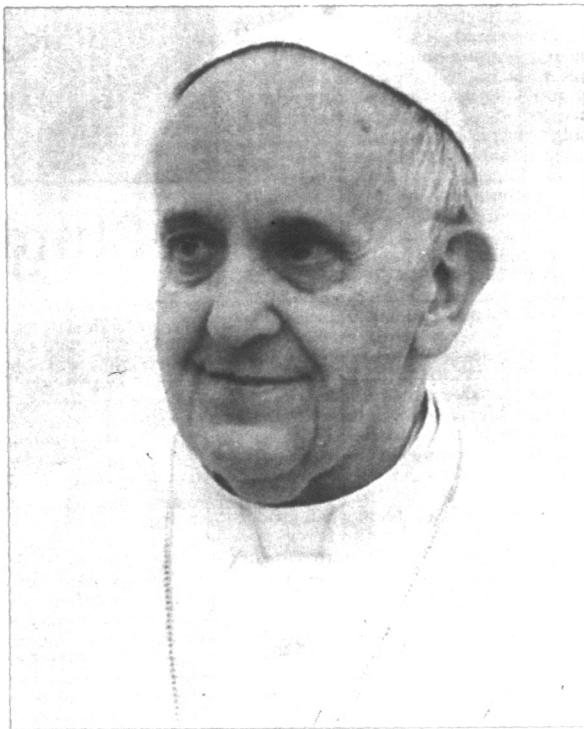
Kelley, an adjunct professor of women's ministry at New Orleans Seminary and wife of the seminary's president, Chuck Kelley, told Baptist Press the Bible does not assign different levels of severity to different sins, as the Catholic Church's treatment of abortion would indicate.

"It is very clear that all sin is level at the cross of Jesus, who died to forgive anyone of all sin. Psalm 103:3 says, '[God] forgives all your sin; He heals all your diseases. He redeems your life from the pit,'" said Kelley, whose husband Chuck Kelley is president of New Orleans Seminary.

"This truth continues in the New Testament: 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness,'" Kelley said, referring to 1 John 1:9. "What a promise to know that the Lord sees sin as sin and promises forgiveness of all sin when we confess it to Him and accept His forgiveness."

Women who have had abortions can seek complete forgiveness and total healing from Jesus Christ, Kelley said.

"The healing process begins with repentance from sin and acceptance of God's forgiveness, then redemption occurs in the believer's life and ministry," she said. "God can use what was intended for evil as good to minister to others and give glory to His name."



POPE FRANCIS

"...The Bible never teaches us to look to man or any officer of the church to dispense grace. We are reconciled to God by grace through Jesus Christ when He became sin for us."

Kathy Ferguson Litton

North American Mission Board national consultant for ministry to pastor's wives

SBC president invites nominations for committees

SPRINGDALE, Ark. (BP) — Candidates to serve on the committees of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) are being sought by SBC president Ronnie Floyd, senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas.



FLOYD

The Committee on Committees, appointed by the SBC president, and the Committee on Nominations, elected by messengers, are at the heart of the selection process of pastors and laypeople as trustees of the SBC entities, such as the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board.

Two other groups for which the SBC president is soliciting

potential members are the Credentials Committee and Tellers. The Credentials Committee is responsible for addressing any registration uncertainty involving a messenger. Tellers are involved in any votes by messengers on motions and other business matters.

Floyd also noted he is seeking candidates to serve on the Resolutions Committee, which frames proposed stances to messengers on missions and evangelism as well as important cultural issues.

Floyd's letter set forth qualifications for committee candidates:

■ "Christ-like character, unquestionable integrity, and a commitment to the inerrancy of Scripture as the written Word of God and to reaching our world with the gospel of Christ.

■ "In accordance with SBC Bylaw 15(A), Committee on

Committee appointees shall have been resident members for at least (3) years of Southern Baptist churches either geographically within the states or affiliated with the convention of the states from which they are appointed."

■ "SBC Bylaw 15(C) precludes simultaneous service on more than one board or committee of the Convention by any person or that person's spouse unless specifically permitted by bylaw. You may not nominate to the Committee on Committees, the Tellers or Credentials committees any person who is currently serving (or whose spouse is serving) on any other SBC entity board, institution, commission, or committee.

■ "A faithful history of financial support of the Convention's missions and ministries, primarily through the Cooperative Program.

■ "A variety of age, gender, position, and ethnicity: men and women, church staff and laymen, and representatives from large and small churches."

Floyd asked that names of candidates for these groups be forwarded to him by Nov. 1 in one of the following ways:

■ E-mail to the president's office at ronniep@crosschurch.com.

■ Fax to 479-756-7110; or mail, 1709 Johnson Road, Springdale, AR 72762.

Appointments to the Committee on Committees entails two representatives from each of the 34 states or regions that qualify for representation according to SBC Bylaw 30. The Committee on Committees meets in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting to nominate an equal number of members to the

Committee on Nominations, which meets the following March, with one church-related employee and one layperson serving from each state or defined territory.

Floyd also is encouraging churches and pastors to provide the Committee on Nominations with recommendations when it begins its work later this fall. This committee nominates members of:

■ The SBC Executive Committee.

■ Trustees for the International Mission Board.

■ Trustees for the North American Mission Board.

■ Trustees for LifeWay Christian Resources.

■ Trustees for GuideStone Financial Resources.

■ Trustees for the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

■ Members of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Recently, I was visiting with a man at one of our churches after a time of worship and we started talking about stump holes. He told me that when he was a youngster his daddy instructed him numerous times, when he would go fishing or they would be at a lake or a pond and he would get out in the water, to be careful about the stump holes that were out there. The man asked me if I knew what a stump hole was and, indeed I did. Then he told me that his father was so concerned because they were so dangerous. A stump hole out in a pond, a lake, and even in some creeks is where a tree used to be and maybe was cut down or blown down, and the stump that was left there over time in the water would disintegrate, corrode, rot, and eventually be gone leaving a hole there in the bottom of the pond. If you happen to be walking along in knee deep or waist deep water and stepped into a stump hole, it is a shocking experience. In fact, you can step off in a stump hole and it is so sudden and shocking that you have a hard time recouping to pull yourself together and try to get out of the stump hole.

Add to that the problem when you step in a hole like that it often times has suction about it and it is hard to get your foot and leg back out of the hole. That is why the man had encouraged his son to be careful, because people have drowned from stepping in a stump hole. If you step into it you will be so surprised and overwhelmed that you cannot get your breath and you have trouble getting your wits together in order to do anything.

I have thought about how much like sin are the stump holes of life. That word, sin, covers our wrong decisions, wrong actions, wrong directions, and disobedience to the will of God. Often



Stump Holes of Life!

times, sin is defined as missing the mark, going the wrong way, or in this case taking a wrong step.

The truth is that every one of us lives in a world where there are stump holes that can pull you down, suck you under, hold you for too long, and indeed the truth is there and the wages of sin is death. Now, every one of us live around those people, experiences, and activities that could be stump holes that jerk you down and hurt your life. I think about in church there are stump holes. While there may be many issues that come before people in the church, there are issues that are filled with concern, outrage, emotion, and sometimes even panic.

The stump hole effect is not just related to one of the issues so much as it is that one person, or a group of people, or sometimes it seems like the whole church body is sucked down into a hole and the suction will not let them get free to actually deal with the problem. I have seen it too many times and often times I wonder if they can get loose. Can they be set free? Can they sur-

vive? I have seen the stump hole effect in church over things like the cemetery fund or the cemetery maintenance.

Sometimes it has to do with scheduling, or groups being invited to sing at the church, or people selling their CDs.

I have known churches to get all out of control and every one almost paralyzed as they try to deal with something that needed to be dealt with, as practical as putting a new roof on the church or cutting some trees in front of the church. Now, I know that these are real issues, but we do not need to lose our perspective on who we are, why we exist, and how we should treat one another.

At times, I have seen the stump hole effect hit in peoples' homes and especially in the area of finances. At times, they begin to spend or overspend and then they spend and overspend a little bit more and hardly recognize the mounting debt that they have gotten into suddenly and shockingly they are about to drown. The reality is that the vast majority of Americans live that way. They think that it just happened.

Well, it just happened because they kept on spending and did not recognize that they were stepping off into a deep hole with a powerful suction. An examination of their spending habits reveal that they could have avoided that step many times and even if they did not avoid it, they can get out if they will make a commitment to do so.

I think about youthful stump holes where young people are so easily grabbed and pulled down. It is hard to imagine how close that they stay one step from addiction, a drink, or a drive that would lead to destruction and even loss — but it is not just young people. Senior adults take steps that lead to their own stump hole experience. Life does provide some experience and wisdom, but sometimes the senior adults do not see the sinkhole any better than the rest of us and the sinkhole for them may be procrastination. It can happen anywhere in life, but for senior adults it becomes more vivid for they are often staring at a lot more life in the rear-view mirror than they see through the windshield. Suddenly they realize that what they should have done or should have said, they did not. I would encourage them to say what you need to say and do what you need to do right now, before you have no opportunity to do it.

Sin with its wrong decision process, warped thinking, and harmful approach can grab hold of any of us over anything at any time, so as you travel through today's pond of life be careful for there are stump holes out there and I do not want you or me to step off into one of them. If you do, reach up to Jesus. He cares, He can help, and He will be there.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

180th Annual Mississippi Baptist Convention

October 27-28, 2015 - First Baptist Church, Jackson

Hotel/Motel Rates effective October 25-27, 2015

Note: Cutoff date for the rates listed is October 9. Rates will go up after then.

When you ask for reservations, be sure to tell them you are attending the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Cabot Lodge Millaps
2375 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39202
601-948-8650
\$94.00 Single / Double per night + 11% tax
+ .75 OT
Free Hot Breakfast

Cabot Lodge Jackson/North
120 Dyess Road
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-957-0757
\$94.00 Single/ Double per night + 8% tax
Free Hot Breakfast

Comfort Inn
1226 Phillips Lane
Pearl, MS 39208
601-932-4141
\$89 Single/Double per night + 9% tax
Free Hot Breakfast

Country Inn & Suites
3051 White Blvd.
Pearl, MS 39208
601-420-2244
\$70.00 Single/ Double per night + 9% tax
Free Hot Breakfast

Hampton Inn
1234 Phillips Street
Pearl, MS 39208
601-932-7676
\$109.00 Single/Double per night + 9% tax
Free Hot Breakfast

Hilton Garden Inn
438 Riverwind Drive
Pearl, MS 39208
601-933-1174
\$109.00 Single/ Double per night + 9% tax
\$119.00 Suite per night + 9% tax
Breakfast \$5.00 per person

Holiday Inn Express
100 Riverwind Drive East
Pearl, MS 39208
601-936-7005
\$109/\$129 King/Suite per night + 9% tax
Free Hot Breakfast

Holiday Inn Hotel
110 Bass Pro Drive
601-939-5238
\$119.00 Single/Double per night + 9% tax
Breakfast - Varied price from menu

WEST HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR MINISTER OF MUSIC/SENIOR ADULTS. All resumes should be sent to West Heights Baptist Church, attention: Search Committee, 328 W. Oxford Street, Pontotoc, MS 38863. You may email resumes to brodavid@whbc@att.net.

THE TRI-COUNTY BAPTIST MISSION (LAWRENCE, MARION, AND WALTHALL BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS) IS RECEIVING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF ASSOCIATE ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR through October 31, 2015. Resumes' can be mailed to PO Box 350, Columbia MS 39429 (attention Executive Committee), or emailed to tricountybaptistmissions@gmail.com.

GUNTER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH IN FLORENCE, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please submit resumes to Gunter Road Search Committee C/O Craig Dukes 2209 Woodland Place Florence, MS 39073 or cduckles@bellsouth.net.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH IN VICKSBURG, MS IS SEEKING A YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resumes to Trinity Baptist Church Search Committee, 3365 Porters Chapel Rd. Vicksburg, MS 39180 or email Charlie Harris at C3harrisjr@yahoo.com.

ENON BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH. Send resumes to 2604 Carrollton Rd Grenada, MS 38901 or email to enonbaptistchurch@outlook.com or call 662-226-6778.

CLASSIFIEDS

WINDOW AND SCREEN SHOP — windows and storm windows built to fit your opening. Plus new window screens and rescreen old screens. Call Tom Cook 601-709-4679.

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com.

RAGGERROOS: A COMEDY WASHTUB BAND. We sing, play instruments, and tell jokes. Call us at 601-857-0736.

GATLINBURG RENTAL: Cabin \$95/night. Contact: 832-922-0401 or Email: pdw4760@att.net for information and booking.

STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

WWW.SEBRENHOMECOMFORT.COM. Christian owned Don & Rita Sebren 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS: Gulf Shores & Orange Beach AL. Rent direct from Christian Family Owners, lowest prices on the Beach. www.gulfshorescondos.com, 205-556-0368, 205-752-1231, 251-752-2366.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HouseTops.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 24, 2015

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM **DINNER**

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 1 | 6:30 P.M.

Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo

PASTORS, STAFF, CHAIRMAN OF DEACONS,
FINANCIAL/BUDGET CHAIRMEN, AND SPOUSES

DR. FUTRAL, SPEAKER

NO COST, BUT YOU MUST RSVP TO USA LEAVELL AT 601-292-3347
OR LEAVELL@MBCB.ORG BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

RICK BLYTHE, DIRECTOR OF CP/STEWARSHIP PROMOTION

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT THE
STEWARSHIP/CP PROMOTION DEPT. OF THE MBCB AT
800-748-1651, EXT. 347, OR 601-292-3347.

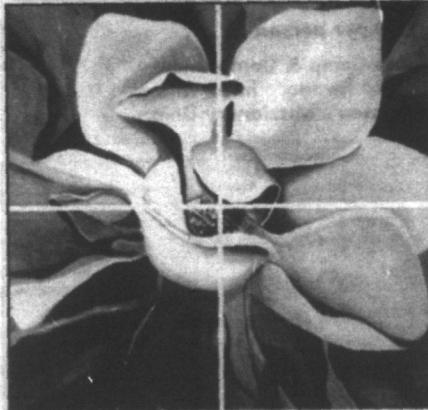
IRA DAY 2015

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
HOMECOMING

October 24, 2015

Registration – noon
Program – 1:00 p.m. • Game – 3:00 p.m.

Contact Men's Ministry at
800-748-1651, Ext. 335



ANYONE IN CHRIST IS A **NEW CREATION**

MARGARET LACKEY
OFFERING FOR STATE
MISSIONS MISSISSIPPI

GIVE GENEROUSLY FOR STATE MISSIONS

2015 OFFERING GOAL: \$2,000,000

OFFERING EMPHASIS AUGUST-OCTOBER
ORDER FREE MARGARET LACKEY RESOURCES
AND LEARN MORE ABOUT STATE MISSIONS

Mission Strategy | MBCB | (800) 748-1651

Breakfast

AMD Seminary Extension Directors Breakfast
October 27, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Baptist Building, Chapel
Contact Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. of
800-748-1651 for more information.

Bivocational/Small Church Ministers & Wives Council Meeting

October 26, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Baptist Building
Skyroom

For more information contact the
Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. of the
MBCB at 800-748-1651.

Mississippi Baptist Singing Churchwomen

Fall Worship Concert

Sunday, October 25
First Baptist Church of Quitman

Ministers' Wives CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 26, 2015
FBC, JACKSON
5TH FLOOR

We welcome Diana Davis as our speaker. She enjoys encouraging ministry wives and training women in church leadership. Diana is a minister's wife, for over 32 years. Minister's wife of Steve Davis, vice president of SBC's NAMB, South region, her newest publication is "6 Simple Steps: Find Contentment & Joy as a Minister's Wife." Ministers' wives are welcome to join us for an afternoon of great fellowship and fulfillment.

Sponsored by the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept.
Register by contacting Cathy Taylor at cwtaylor@mbcb.org.



Mother Daughter OVERNIGHT

Mother/Daughter is on October 16-17, and November 6-7, 2015, at Garaywa Camp & Conference Center. We will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and end at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. You will be involved in events such as a missionary visit, worship, ropes course, crafts and much more. This is the perfect opportunity to get away from the world and invest in a 1st-6th grade girl in your life.

Registration forms are online at garaywa.org.

Cost: \$50 per person

Please call Garaywa Camp & Conference
Center at 601-924-7034 for more information.
Sponsored by the Women's Missionary Union.

Merry Christmas!

To pastors in the Baptist Convention of New York through the Suit Project ministry.

Every year we seek to bless pastors and their wives with gifts, sending pastors new suits and their wives gift cards. This ministry has been blessing ministers and their families since 1963. Join in making the holidays even more special for these ministers by giving to the suit project. Donations to this ministry can be a rewarding fundraising project for any group in your church: Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, WMU, Men's Ministry, VBS, or youth.

To make donations, or for more information, contact the Men's Ministry Department of the MBCB at 800-748-1651, Ext. 335, 601-292-3335, or E-mail dvail@mbcb.org.

FALL TRAIL RIDE 2015

NOVEMBER 13-14, 2015

CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT
6377 Attala Road 4227 • West MS 39192

Cost: \$45 per person
(includes room or RV hookup, 3 meals, & insurance)

Saturday Riders' Cost: \$20 (includes lunch)

BYOH (Bring Your Own Horse)
Up-to-date Coggins Required

Contact:
CBR - 662-289-9730
Don Lum, Evangelism Dept., MBCB
601-292-3278 or dlum@mbcb.org

Online Leadership Training

The WMU is now offering online conferences designed to train missions and women's ministry leaders to facilitate missions education and Women's Ministry.

Conferences include:

- How to Involve Churches in Associational Missions
- How to Involve Your Church in Missions
- How to Involve Adults in Missions
- How to Involve Women in Women's Ministry
- How to Involve Students in Missions
- How to Involve Children in Missions
- How to Involve Preschoolers in Missions

To participate, you must register online at mbcb.org on the WMU Ministries page and select Online Training on the left of the page.

Cost per conference is \$10 (\$15 for the Adult Missions and Women's Ministry course)

Work at your own pace!

For more information, contact Tammy Anderson in the Mississippi WMU office at 800-748-1651, ext. 323, or at tanderson@mbcb.org.



2015 Auditions for the 2016 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra. Open to 9th-12th graders involved in the music ministry of MS Southern Baptist Churches.

PLEASE REGISTER 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO AUDITION.

ONLY 3 AUDITION LOCATIONS REMAINING!

Thursday, October 1, 2015

4:00 – 7:00 P.M.
FBC, Meridian

Saturday, October 17, 2015

1:00 – 4:00 P.M.
Baptist Building

Sunday, October 18, 2015

2:00 – 5:00 P.M.
Baptist Building

For more information contact the Church Music Department of the MBCB at 800-748-1651, Ext. 267, or 601-292-3267, E-mail ctaylor@mbcb.org.

Looking for ways to introduce your church or group to missions?

Consider hosting a WorldCrafts party or use them as a special emphasis throughout the year.

WorldCrafts is a non-profit ministry of the WMU that works to provide sustainable income for impoverished people around the world.

To learn more about WorldCrafts and to plan an event, visit worldcrafts.org. WorldCrafts specialists are available to assist you in Mississippi. Contact Tammy Anderson in the state WMU office (800-748-1651, ext. 323 or tanderson@mbcb.org) or a list of names.

Pray this day for...

September 25 - October 8, 2015

"praying at all times in the Spirit...To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."

Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **Jonathan & Bethany Sharp**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through community outreach, church planting & evangelism.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Janna Smith**, missionaries ministering to Peruvian & Mexican Peoples through church planting & regional office support.

Pray for: **Karl & Peggy Wallace**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism, and mission administration.

Pray for: **James & Mary Adair**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **John & Deborah Royals**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Billy & Susan Sanson**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Allen**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through community outreach.

Pray for: **Richard & Martha Beal**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through financial administration, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Laurie Bledsoe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Donald & Donna Brown**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Karen Brown**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through nursing.

Pray for: **John & Claudia Brown**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.



Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra Concert

October 11 - 6:00 PM

Carterville Baptist Church, Petal

Contact Cathy Taylor, Church Music Dept., at 800-748-1651 for more information.

Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir Weekend

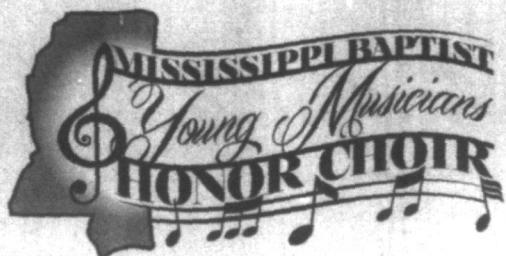
Saturday, April 9 - Sunday, April 10, 2016

First Baptist Church of Clinton

Begin submitting video auditions August 1, 2015

Deadline: November 15, 2015

For more information, contact Wyndy South, Church Music Dept.,
at wsouth@mbcb.org



HOUSE TOPS

College News

In other College News:

► For the fourth consecutive year, **William Carey University** has been named a Champions of Character Five-Star Institution by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Carey was recognized as a silver institution with a score of 79 in the Champions of Character program, which focuses on the NAIA's five core values of integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership. The program works to instill these values through activities for student-athletes and professional development for coaches and staff.

BIBLIOCRYPT

FDILKC, MDNUQA, LM NUYJ GQ

ELZZLKC, AQOYXQ NULF RJT MAYO

OQ: KQXQANUQZQFF KYN OI ELZZ,

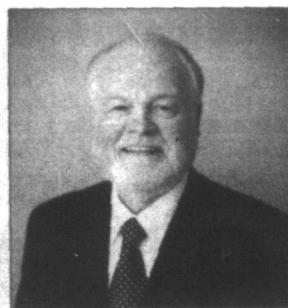
GJN NULKQ, GQ HYKQ.

ZJVQ NEQKNI-NEY: MYANI-NEY

Clue: M = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: *Revelation 2:11*

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE physician assistant student Meagan McNeil was chosen as National Health Service Corps Scholar. The federal scholarship program supports physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, midwives, and physician assistants. McNeil is from Clinton.

Don Locke has been named Order of the Golden Arrow winner at **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE**. Locke is dean of the School of Education and will be recognized Oct. 23. The award showcases people with outstanding professional achievements and extraordinary leadership abilities.

Ben Caston has been appointed to the faculty of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex. He will serve as associate professor of voice and associate dean of undergraduate studies in the School of Church Music. Caston completed his bachelor's degree at **WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE**, and his master's and doctoral degrees at New Orleans Seminary. He previously served as associate professor of music and director of choral activities at Truett McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga., and as associate pastor and minister of music at First Church, Helen, Ga.



(AT LEFT) Wendy Scott (second from left) has been installed as **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW** dean. She was invested Sept. 10 at First Church, Jackson. She is the eighth dean of the school.



Michael W Smith Concert

October 17 7:00 p.m.

North Greenwood
Baptist Church

615 Grand Boulevard
Greenwood, MS 38930

\$35 General Admission

\$75 VIP Meet and Greet

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets available at North Greenwood Baptist

662-453-2801

MSAudiol LLC

Design & Integration of Professional Audio, Video, & Lighting
Church, Conference Room, School
Equipment sales, service and installation

Trooper Hales

info@msaudiolllc.com

P.O. Box 1575

Clinton, MS 39060

Ph 601-923-9947

Fax 601-924-2880

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Fair River Church, Brookhaven:** 200th anniversary, Sept. 27; worship, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Chip Henderson, speaker; Neil Wiggly, music.

► **Hope Church, Philadelphia:** Homecoming, Sept. 27; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Gary Thompson, speaker.

► **Coila Church, Coila:** Revival, Sept. 27-30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Pender, speaker; Terry Corley, pastor.

► **Calvary Church, Eupora:** 60th anniversary, Sept. 27; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch.

► **Friendship Church, Brookhaven:** Revival, Sept. 27-30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Matt Alexander and Steve Jackson, speakers; David Montgomery, music.

► **North Columbia Church, Columbia:** Revival, Sept. 27-30; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 6:30 p.m.; Joe McKeever, Reggie Ogea, Philip Thurman, Brett Golson, Rory Lee, Ben James,

Tommy King, and Gene Douglass, speakers; Price Harris, music; Joe Wiggins, pastor; lunch served Mon.-Wed.

► **Trinity Church, Pearl:** Revival, Sept. 27-30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John Grimes, speaker; John Wolbrecht, music.

► **South McComb Church, McComb:** Revival, Sept. 27-29; Sun., 11 a.m.; Mon.-Tues., 6 p.m.; Reginald Calvert and Fred Luter, speakers; SMBC praise band and JPAC choir, music.

► **Corinth Church, Heidelberg:** Revival, Sept. 27-Oct. 2, 7 p.m. nightly; Bill Saye, speaker.

► **Beulah Church, Lexington:** Homecoming, Sept. 27; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Doug Applegate, speaker; local talent, music.

► **Hickory Church, Hickory:** 150th anniversary, Sept. 26-27; Sat., campus tours, refreshments, and memorabilia display, 4 p.m.; 7 p.m., worship with former pastors and Lord's Supper; Sun., Sunday School,

9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds.

► **Fredonia Church, New Albany:** Homecoming, Sept. 27; services, 10 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Tommy Wilder, speaker; Nathan Chapman, music; Chris Madison, pastor; Cody Matlock, associate pastor, youth and children; Brandi Reid, minister of music.

► **Rocky Point Church, Leake County:** Homecoming, Sept. 27; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish meal; Emmon White, speaker.

► **Macedonia Church, Blue Mountain:** Homecoming and revival, Sept. 27-30; Sun., 10 a.m., worship; 11 a.m., singing with Servants Heart, followed by potluck lunch; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. with potluck meal at 6 p.m.; Terry Hall and Tim Murrah, speakers; Terry Hall, speaker.

► **Hope Church, Philadelphia:** Homecoming, Sept. 27; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Gary Thompson, speaker; William Crenshaw, music; Dennis Duvall, pastor.

TOGETHER

cont. from p. 1

the collaborative process, we invited Ballet Magnificat to join us in the presentation," Gray said.

Mannery agreed the timing was right for such an event in Mississippi, which was eventually titled, Stronger Together - A Night of Unity.

"Amos 3:3 asks the rhetorical question, 'Can two walk together, except they be agreed?' As the body of Christ, the only thing we can absolutely agree upon is that Jesus is Lord. Stronger

Together - A Night of Unity afforded us the opportunity to state and celebrate it loud and clear.

"This worship service was amazing on many levels - conceived and executed within four weeks with no budget, without rehearsals, and with interdenominational approval. Indeed, nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come," Mannery said.

The leaders of two of the most influential bodies of U.S. Baptists apparently agreed. Representing the Southern Baptist Convention was President Ronnie Floyd, who flew in from Cross Church in northwest Arkansas where he is senior pastor. Representing the National Baptist Convention USA was President Jerry Young, pastor of New Hope Church in Jackson.

"I say to Satan tonight, in the name of Jesus the Son of

On the web

Streaming video of the two-hour event can be viewed at firstbaptistjackson.org/resources/media/media-library/stronger-together-a-night-of-unity/



PACKED HOUSE - Mississippians representing Christian denominations from across the state take their seats Aug. 25 in the Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson, as Stronger Together: A Night of Unity begins. The event was designed to honor the witness of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., where nine worshippers lost their lives June 17 at the hands of a racist gunman. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

God, King of kings and Lord of lords, we stand against all racism in the United States and may Jesus put it to an end, to His honor and His glory, forever and ever... and I say enough is enough."

Floyd said, "I read a story about Mahatma Gandhi, who had attended church in South Africa," Young said. "After he left, there were a number of persons who asked him questions. Someone asked him, 'Gandhi, why won't you become a Christian?' To which Gandhi replied, 'I would become a Christian if I could just see one.'

"I would to God that Gandhi was here tonight. What a

tremendous display of what it means to be a part of that eccllesia that called out crowds."

In attendance were Wayne Singleton, minister of music at Mother Emanuel Church, and his wife Myra. They received a standing ovation when they came to the platform to speak.

"I am so overwhelmed of the love that has been shown to us since June 17," Wayne Singleton said to the hushed crowd. "There is no other place I would rather be than right here, right now. June 17 changed the lives of many, and we're still working through it, but

our faith has kept us strong. We have learned the power of forgiveness."

"I say to Satan tonight, in the name of Jesus the Son of God, King of kings and Lord of lords, we stand against all racism in the United States and may Jesus put it to an end, to His honor and His glory, forever and ever... and I say enough is enough."

Ronnie Floyd

Southern Baptist Convention president

Gray presented the Singeltons with a mounted promotional poster of the event that had been signed by the members of the Mississippi Mass Choir and the Sanctuary Choir of First Church, Jackson. They received another standing ovation as they returned to their seats.

Streaming video of the two-hour event can be viewed at firstbaptistjackson.org/resources/media/media-library/stronger-together-a-night-of-unity/

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electroni-

cally via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

God Saves • Genesis 6:11-18; 7:11-14

Humans deeply disappointed God. Genesis 6:5-6 reads, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart," (KJV). Remember there were no chapter breaks in the Bible until about 1200 A.D. and no verse divisions until 1550 A.D. The fourth chapter of Genesis concludes with the offspring of Cain, and the 5th chapter enumerates the offspring of Seth. Seth's lineage was godly, while Cain's was ungodly.

Genesis chapter six begins with how the offspring of Cain married into the lineage of Seth, and all were corrupt from them on, with one exception. The Hebrew word, "Nephilim" in Genesis 6:3 means "fallen ones," though this obscure Hebrew word is translated "giants" elsewhere in the Old Testament. Without the chapter break this makes sense. The end of verse four states there were mighty men in those days. This refers to human's strong resolve to ungodliness, not their righteousness. Therefore, Genesis 6:7-8 reads, "And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth;

both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repented me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord," (KJV). The lineage of Seth was godly, including Methuselah and godly men like Enoch, but then their male offspring intermarried the female offspring of Cain, and soon all were corrupt except one.

Noah was the above mentioned exception.

Noah was a godly man in an ungodly world. God noticed his righteousness. In the midst of worldwide evil, God noticed Noah. Later God would notice Job. Job 2:3 reads, "And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?" (KJV). The Hebrew word translated "perfect" in this verse and in Genesis 6:9 about Noah means blameless or upright as well. So



Explore the Bible with Rick Henson

God bragged about Job, just as He noticed Noah.

The Bible describes Noah in Genesis 6:9, "These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God," (KJV), and in Genesis 7:1 "And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation," (KJV). God Himself described Noah as just, perfect, and righteous.

Noah demonstrated his walk with God when he obeyed His word

by building an ark before there ever was rain on the earth. Genesis 2:5-6 reveal, "And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground," (KJV).

Genesis 6:11 reads, "Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence, KJV), and as stated above from 6:5, "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." What a contrast between Noah and his contemporaries! 2 Peter 2:4-5, 9 adds, "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly, ... The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished," (KJV).

Noah was righteous in an unrighteous world. As our society slouches away from the Lord, let us live lives that contrast our righteousness with their corruption. God is watching, and is quite capable of delivering us from the tests and trials of life. God bragged about Job and Noah. What is He saying about you?

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

God's Promise of Answered Prayer • Luke 11:5-13

"Have you seen War Room?" This question is buzzing around Christian circles as a result of the Kendrick brothers' newest box office sensation that (as of this writing) has pulled in over \$39 million. Miss Clara, one of the leading characters, advises Elizabeth (her young mentee) on how to successfully handle her struggling marriage: "You've got to plead with God so that He can do what only He can do; then you've got to get out of the way and let Him do it!"

"War Room" has spurred attendees by the thousands to go home with renewed zeal to fight their battles on their knees. Of course, Scripture has long invited us to do exactly this. Today's lesson reminds us the Lord delights in answering our earnest pleas.

One day, as Jesus finished praying, His disciples approached Him. "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples," the follower requested (Luke 11:1 NKJV). Notice the timeline on this; it wasn't at the onset of Jesus' mentoring of these men. Several significant ministry events had transpired, including sending a group of 72 out on a mission trip (Luke 10). Perhaps, at this point, these followers realized they needed to gain more insight on prayer. In Luke 11:2-4, Jesus shared a model, a springboard to propel His disciples into deepening adventures in (and dependence on) prayer.

The Lord then used a story to add two other components of prayer: persistence and patience. These two, when knit together, would produce results. He discusses an occasion in which someone had unexpected company arrive late at night, and the host needed some food for his guest. Even though it was midnight, he ran to a neighbor, waking the man by pounding on the door.

At first, the gregarious friend adamantly refused: "Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children

are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you," he responded (v. 7).

Although hospitality was considered a sacred duty in the ancient Near East at this time, we can probably picture the neighbor's reluctance to respond to the inconvenient request. Possibly, in a small house, lighting a candle, scurrying around to gather the needed food, and opening the door may have disturbed the whole household. However, the needy man would not relent. The result? "...because of his persistence

he will rise and give him as many as he needs", Jesus said (v. 8).

A similar story on the topic of persistence is found in Luke 18:1-8. There, Jesus relates a story of a widow bringing her request for fair treatment before a judge who "did not fear God nor regard man" (v. 2). He tried to put her off, but because she continued to badger him with her request, he relented,

using his position to provide justice for her (vs. 4-5).

We'd be wrong to assume these stories teach us that

God must continually be pestered to get Him to answer our prayers. LifeWay writer Jonathan Falwell clarifies this: "It should be noted here that some of Jesus' parables are told as comparisons, while others are used to contrast one thing to another. This parable is a contrast". For sure, God is not a reluctant giver who must be coerced or prodded to respond to our pleas. We can knock on His door 24/7!

In verse 9, Jesus mentions three action symbols to use in prayer: asking,

Bible Studies for Life with Ann Maniscalco



seeking, and knocking. The results will be receiving, finding, and the opening of doors (vs. 9-10).

The Lord then discussed a role of an earthly father. If a hungry boy requested food, he could confidently expect some bread, or perhaps a piece of fish. A loving father would meet his child's needs appropriately. However, if a young boy today asked to have candy and soda for a meal, the wise father would rightly refuse, in lieu of better choices. Perhaps, when our prayer isn't answered as we wish, we need to see if we've requested a soda-and-candy equivalent! To provide what's best, God may decline or delay.

In verse 13, Jesus says the Father will "give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him". This seems an unusual way to end a treatise on prayer. However, until Pentecost, the Spirit didn't indwell men and women continually (Acts 2:1-4). The best gift God could possibly impart is the indwelling presence of His Spirit, which accompanies our salvation!

May we honor God with prayers modeling persistence, patience, and praise!

Ann Maniscalco is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Ocean Springs.

CHITWOOD

cont. from p.2

his gavel to swat the proverbial gnat with a sledgehammer.

Where does this end? I hon-

estly don't know. If Davis was my wife and the mother of my children, I would have quickly asked that she respond to this great injustice by resigning her position and coming home to her family. She defended her

beliefs and, from what I have observed, took her stand with gracious and God-honoring speech. She made her case. She did all that she could do.

As for the failure of Gov. Beshear to protect her free-

dom of conscience, unfortunately, his name won't be on the ballot in November but, once again, the people of Kentucky are learning the hard lesson that elections really do matter.

In fact, freedom hangs in the balance.

Chitwood is executive director of the 2,400-church Kentucky Baptist Convention, headquartered in Louisville.

Just for the Record



HOPE CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, ordained Todd Winstead as deacon Aug. 23. He is shown with his wife, Christy, and children, Tyler and Maggie Grace. Dennis Duvall, pastor.



Kids from **CALVARY CHURCH, VICKSBURG**, are shown enjoying their back to school party and practice for their annual Christmas program.



The youth of **FAIR RIVER CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN**, traveled to Orange Beach, Ala., for summer camp. Shown are the participants. Tim Johnson, youth pastor; Jay Anderson, pastor.



GRACE CHURCH, VICKSBURG, honored H. Bryan Abel for 50 years of preaching the gospel. Shown are Abel and Robert Greer.



COILA CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY, held a baby dedication Sept. 6 for Lillyan Ruth Clunan, who is shown with her parents Brandon and Dayna Clunan and pastor Terry Corley.



ROXIE CHURCH, ROXIE, recognized Earlyn Mullins for 70 years of teaching Sunday School on Sept. 6.

FALL REVIVAL
WOODLAND BAPTIST CHURCH, COLUMBUS
 3033 RIDGE ROAD • 662-327-6689
shelby@woodlandonline.org

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH
 6:30pm
 Dr. Paige Patterson & Master's Voice

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH
 11:30pm
 Dr. Patterson in "The Lion's Den" followed by spaghetti luncheon (both free), book signing and fellowship with Dr. Patterson

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH
 6:30pm
 Dr. Paige Patterson & Master's Voice

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH
 10:00am
 Dr. Paige Patterson & Master's Voice
 Offerings taken each time

WWW.WOODLANDBAPTISTCHURCH.COM

Enjoy a warm welcome at
St. Catherine's Village
 A SECURE, WELL-RESPECTED, CONTINUING-CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY



OFFERING BEAUTIFUL INDEPENDENT LIVING CHOICES:

- Garden Homes
- Apartment Homes

and trusted options for:

- Assisted Living Apartments
- Campbell Court, a Residential Alzheimer's Facility
- The Bridges Center for those in the advanced stages of Alzheimer's and Dementia
- Stoen Center, a 24-hour Nursing Center

ST. CATHERINES VILLAGE
 A MEMBER OF St. Dominic's

You take control of continuing care. We are Mississippi's first retirement community to be accredited by CCRC. CCRC. This mark of quality is achieved by fewer than 15% of retirement communities in America.

Wandering if St. Catherine's Village is right for you or your loved one?

CALL TODAY TO 601-200-8888 TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY.

Affiliation of St. Dominic Health Services